

V-ball Yeomen fall short of OUAA title in match against Warriors

By LORNE MANLY

Saturday's Ontario Universities Athletic Association (OUAA) final between York and Waterloo was a carbon copy of York's victory over U of T the week before except for one crucial difference: this time the Yeomen were on the losing end of the 7-15, 15-10, 15-11, 15-11 score.

York appeared to be firmly in control of the match in the first game just as U of T had been the week before. As well, the momentum changed hands early in the second game of both matches. Last week the Yeomen were the beneficiaries of this change in fortune as they captured the next three games to emerge victorious. Saturday, though, the Yeomen were the victims, bringing to a close York's season and sending Waterloo to the national championships in Moncton.

"It was a heartbreaking loss," Coach Hernan Humana said. "We came out very strong and we thought that was it but they (the Warriors) fought back."

Captain Dave Samek was at a loss for words to explain the defeat. "We weren't nervous," Samek said, "and we took them handily in the first game (but) then we fell apart. It just wasn't in the cards."

The champion Warriors, on the other hand, were more helpful in outlining the reasons for the turnaround in the match. "We were nervous at the start," Dave Ambrose, a standout for Waterloo, both in spiking and at the net, said. "We weren't serving well and we couldn't block York's shots. And when we are not blocking, our game falls apart."

"5-0 in the second game was the turning point," Ambrose continued.

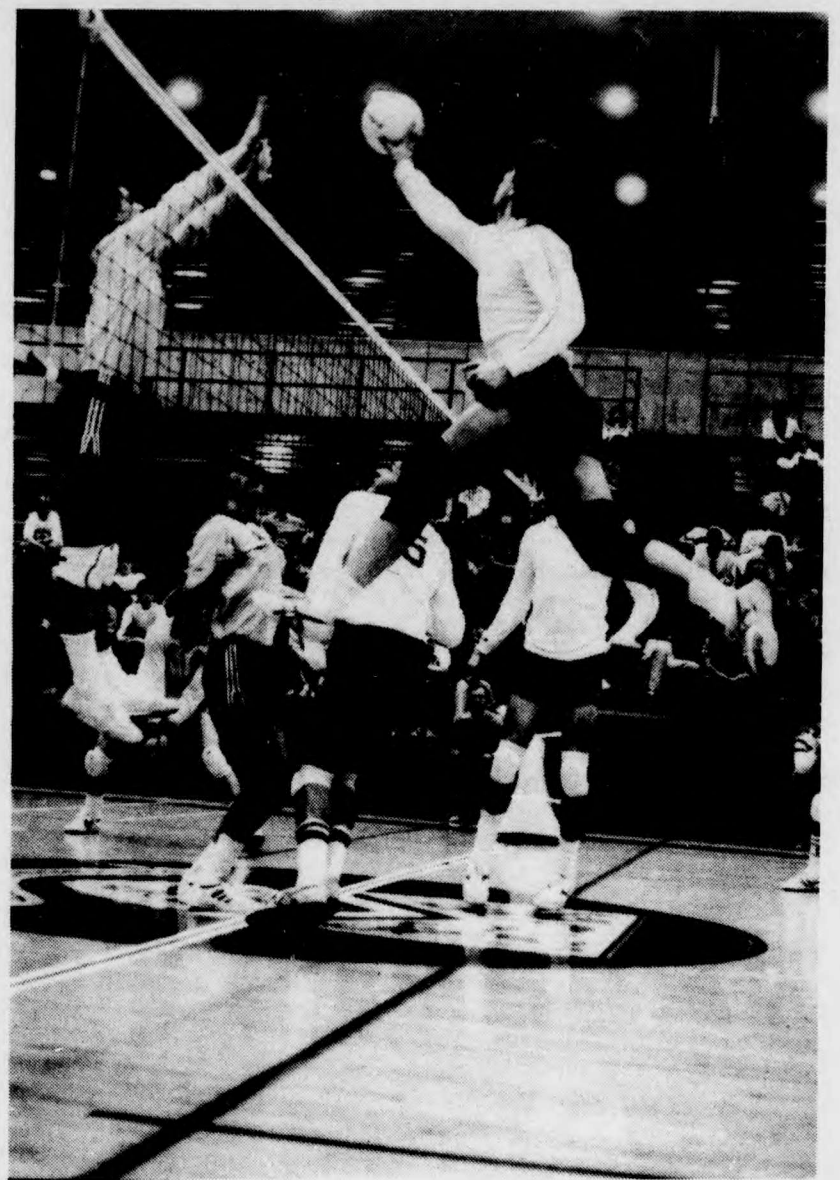
"We began serving tougher and made York become more predictable with their offense." It was this predictability that enabled the Warriors to consistently block York's shots, a major factor in Waterloo's victory.

Warrior coach Rob Atkinson, OUAA coach of the year, also traced the comeback to Waterloo's better serves. "The key to our blocking was predicting York's sets, which came from poorer passing which was caused by tougher serves," Atkinson remarked. "And once we got a block

instead of just whaling away at the ball."

The Yeomen made a valiant attempt to catch up in the fourth game, just as the Blues did last week, reducing an 11-3 deficit to 13-11, before finally succumbing 15-11. As Humana said, "It was too little, too late."

NOTES: The Yeomen placed two players on the OUAA East division all-star team. Joining Samek on the squad was Alex Ketrzynski. The Warriors had three members on the West division team: Dave Ambrose, Owen Jones and Jim Cooke.



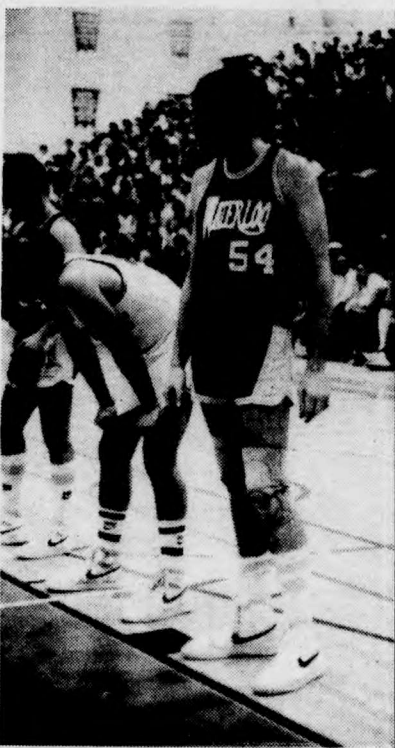
Basketball cont'd from p. 19

game. "The loss of Tim Rider really hurts," he said. "With his inside and perimeter games, he makes York a man-and-a-half better. It took us a month to get our game together after losing Randy, but we had been playing excellent ball lately. When Randy returned, it raised us a notch higher."

Savich led the Warriors with 17 points, while Norris and Paul Boyce finished with 16 each. For York, Stu Levinsky led with 20 points despite playing with a broken toe.

Waterloo hit 27 of 58 field goal attempts while York converted 24 of 73. Although both sides shot well from the foul line, Waterloo held a 20-10 advantage as the Warriors had 26 attempts compared to York's 14.

NOTE: The York Yeomen travel to Acadia for their CIAU Regional this weekend. Along with host Acadia, PEI and Western will also be competing.



Volleyball women poised for future success as most team members will return next year

By MANOJ PRAJAPAT

The foundation has been set for the York Yeowomen volleyball team to become a real force in university women's volleyball play for the next few seasons.

The Yeowomen lost all of their starters from last year's squad and were pretty much a young, unknown quantity this season. Considering their lack of experience, the team has performed remarkably well.

York finished the regular season tied with the University of Toronto for second place in the OWIAA's eastern division with a 9-3 won-loss record and this past weekend placed third at the OWIAA volleyball championships at McMaster University.

A tough 3-1 loss to Toronto in the semi-finals killed any chance for York to play for the gold medal.

"Both Ottawa (the eventual

winners) and Toronto were ranked ahead of us but I still thought we had a good shot at finishing second," York coach Merv Mosher said. "So in that way maybe I'm a little disappointed—but on the whole, I'm very pleased with the team's progress this season, I have to be."

The playoff format saw the top three teams from both the eastern and western division qualify. York was pooled with Ottawa and Windsor.

The Yeomen beat Windsor 3-0 but lost their second match to Ottawa, 3-1. However, the victory over Windsor gave York second place and a spot in the semi-finals against the University of Toronto. A victory there would have sent York to the gold medal match.

"It was just a case of getting beat by a more experienced club,"

Mosher said. "The games were fairly close—I think it was more of a case of them beating us than us losing."

York shut out Waterloo 3-0 to take the bronze. Ottawa beat Toronto by the same score to capture the gold.

His team's strong showing this year has left Mosher pretty excited about next season.

"We've definitely come a long way this year," he said. "I'm really looking forward to next year, we're certainly going to be a team to be reckoned with."

Note: York's Susan Stapleton (daughter of former Chicago Black Hawk great Pat) was selected a tournament all-star for her outstanding play throughout the weekend. Teammate Cheryl Piper was selected a league all-star for her fine play during the regular season.

Athletes, school deserve better than present fan apathy

A remarkable winning streak finally came to an end this week. The basketball Yeomen lost an OUAA game for the first time at home since February 4, 1978. A combination of a very good Waterloo team and an injury to York's captain Tim Rider proved fatal to the traditional home court victory celebrations. However what I found most frustrating was the lack of determined fan support for the home team.

In the two most crucial home games of the year, the loudest cheers were reserved for the visitors. In particular, the OUAA East final was a shocking display of fan apathy. A group of about 50 University of Toronto fans almost cheered Varsity on to their first victory over York in 12 years. For the first 14 minutes of the second half, York fans sat on their hands and watched the Yeomen fall into deep trouble on the scoreboard. York's offensive drives were countered with loud and derisive cheers of "dee-fense" in their own gym. The Blues came back down court to the delight of their wildly energetic supporters. All this time the Yeomen fans still sat on their hands. Fortunately before it was too late, they woke up to inspire the Yeomen to a come from behind championship victory by the slimmest of margins.

Two nights later in the OUAA final, the University of Waterloo players and fans inflicted upon York the historical defeat. The red and white clad Yeomen played valiantly despite being



MEL BROITMAN

outmanned and outgunned by the high-powered Warriors. It was a virtual 'home-game' for Waterloo, as Tait McKenzie was never before so loud and boisterous for a basketball game—yet mainly supporting the visiting club. Despite the efforts of Trumpeteer Kneel Sullivan and his band of ruggers, it was no contest. Waterloo athletes beat York on the court, while Waterloo supporters humiliated York's fans off the court.

The basketball Yeomen certainly deserved a better fate than to play nearly two games "on the road" at Tait McKenzie. With the absence of all-star Tim Rider and an injury to Mark Jones, support should have been at an all-time high. The players answered the call with their best efforts—too bad a similar response was not elicited from the York fans.

Yeomen fans can learn a lesson from Waterloo basketball

fans. They back their club with a vociferous commitment second to none in Canada. Their unique cheering style is a credit to their creativity, and yes, their sophistication. Most pleasing of all is their wholesome attitude to the proceedings. Waterloo basketball is fun. Their fans intimidate through exuberance, not violence. Anyone who claims that the pomp and pageantry of college basketball is only found south of the 49th parallel, has never seen Warrior basketball in Waterloo.

Given that York lacks excellent facilities, there is still no reason that major sporting events shouldn't be consistently filled—with York fans. The OUAA basketball final drew only half a gym of spectators backing the home side. Such a situation is unfathomable at Canada's third largest university. It is not a case of teams and athletes not being competitive on national and international fronts. Varsity athletics at York University is presently the most successful all round program in Canada.

Thank goodness for York's rugby team. Without their vocal support, Tait McKenzie and the Ice Palace might be mistaken for mortuaries. York athletics definitely needs an infusion of more fans willing to lend to electric atmosphere that could permeate many home games. The few dedicated cheerleaders and diehards need more hands and voices. So do the athletes. They and our school deserve better.